

Message Text

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60

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00 OC-06

CCO-00 SCS-03 L-03 H-02 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /060 W

----- 020016

R 261634Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6056

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

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BRUSSELS AND LAGOS FOR FAA REPS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWERMW ASAFN MR

SUBJECT: CRASH OF AIR MAURITANIE DC-3 ON JULY 23

REF: NOAKCHOTT 1781 (NOTAL)

1. DC-3 LEASED BY AIR MAURITANIE (AIRM) FROM AIR SENEGAL CRASHED AND BURNED JUST SHORT OF TIDJIKDJA AIRPORT AFTERNOON JULY 23. SEVEN PASSENGERS WERE SLIGHTLY INJURED IN EMERGENCY LANDING, BUT ALL PASSENGERS (29) AND CREW WERE WELL AWAY FROM AIRCRAFT BEFORE IT BURNED. AIRCRAFT IS TOTAL LOSS; ONLY LIL SECTION REMAINS. FOLLOWING REPORT COMES FROM KNOWLEDGEABLE BUT NON-EXPERT OBSERVER WHO VISITED AND PHOTOGRAPHED CRASH SITE AND INTERVIEWED CREW MEMBERS JULY 24.

2. ON NEMA-TIDJIKDJA LEG OF REGULARLY-SCHEDULED AIRM DOMESTIC SERVICE, 35 TO 40 MINUTES OUT OF TIDJIKDJA, RIGHT ENGINE OF AIR SENEGAL DC-3 SUDDENLY LOST OIL PRESSURE. CREW FEATHERED ENGINE AND CONTINUED ON TO TIDJIKDJA. IT SOON BECAME CLEAR THAT LEFT ENGINE ALONE COULD NOT MAINTAIN ALTI-
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TUDE OF AIRCRAFT. CREW THEREFORE BEGAN SYSTEMATICALLY

DUMPING BAGGAGE OUT CARGO DOOR. WITH LIGHTENED LOAD IT APPEARED PLANE COULD HOLD ITS NEW ALTITUDE (WHICH BY THIS TIME WAS 2000 FEET) WITH ENGINE OPERATING AT METO (MAXIMUM EXCEPT TAKE OFF). BUT LEFT ENGINE THEN BEGAN TO OVERHEAT AND TO LOSE POWER. CREW ATTEMPTED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO RESTART RIGHT ENGINE. PLANE CONTINUED TO LOSE ALTITUDE.

3. WITH TIDJIKDJA IN SIGHT, PILOT LANDED AIRCRAFT WHEELS UP ON DESERT FLOOR. RIGHT WING TIP HIT GROUND AND SKIDED AIRCRAFT WROUND. AIRCRAFT ENDED UP ROUGHLY 500 METERS SHORT OF END OF TIDJIKDJA RUNWAY. CREW HERDED PASSENGERS OUT. CO-PILOT OBSERVED SMOKE AND FLAME COMING FROM EXHAUST PIPE OF LEFT ENGINE. CREW WAS FULLY OCCUPIED IN GETTING PASSENGERS OUT OF DOWNED PLANE; NO ATTEMPT WAS MADE TO EXTINGUISH FIRE. IN ROUGHLY THREE MINUTES FIRE SPREAD FROM ENGINE AND ENGULFED PLANE.

4. KNOWLEDGEABLE OBSERVER UNDERScored REPORT OF SUDDEN LOSS OF OIL PRESSURE; CLOSELY EXAMINED ONLY REMAINING INTACT OIL COOLER; REPORTED IT BORE ROCK GASH, BUT NO SIGNS OF EXTRANEIOUS DAMAGE, SUCH AS RIFLE FIRE. HE TOOK SOME THIRTY PHOTOGRAPHS OF CRASH SITE AND OF IDENTIFIABLE PIECES OF WRECKAGE (TAIL SECTION, LEFT AND RIGHT ENGINES, ETC.)

5. JULY 26 CHAAB CARRIES BRIEF REPORT OF ACCIDENT AND PHOTO OF TAIL SECTION. THERE IS NO INDICATION TO DATE WHETHER FORMAL CRASH INVESTIGATION HAS BEGUN OR WHETHER ONE IS PLANNED.

6. HUGHES AIRWEST MAINTENANCE TEAM WAS RESPONSIBLE ONLY FOR "TURN-AROUND MAINTENANCE" ON AIR SENEGAL DC-3. HEAVY MAINTENANCE WAS DONE IN DAKAR, PRESUMABLY UNDER VERITAS SYSTEM.

HANDY SIDE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIR SAFETY, AIRCRAFT ACCIDENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976NOUAKC01794
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760287-0442
From: NOUAKCHOTT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760721/aaaaasrx.tel
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
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Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
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Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
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04 MAY 2006

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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CRASH OF AIR MAURITANIE DC-3 ON JULY 23
TAGS: ASAF, EAIR, MR, AIR MAURITANIA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006